

strongly urge the Governments of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to engage in serious dialogue to improve the transparency, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency of POW/MIA investigations.

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to have worked with the League on this important issue. It is a pleasure to bring recognition to one of our family groups which has toiled so long and so hard in support of our servicemen and women. I wish Ann Mills Griffith, Dick Childress and their team a safe and productive visit to Southeast Asia and I look forward to their report upon their return.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
OLIVER OCASEK

HON. TOM SAWYER

OF OHIO

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. REGULA, and I rise to honor Oliver Ocasek—one of Ohio's most distinguished citizens. On May 20, Oliver Ocasek will receive the YMCA of the USA's Volunteerism Award—the YMCA's highest honor. The YMCA is honoring Ocasek for his more than 50 years of service to youth organizations. We rise today, not only to recognize his deserved selection for this award, but to recognize a lifetime of service to the people of Ohio. Sen. Ocasek's devotion to education extends well beyond his volunteerism with the YMCA. He co-founded the Ohio Hi-Y Youth in Government Model Legislature program with Governor C. William O'Neill in 1952 and supervised it throughout his service on the Ohio-West Virginia Board of the YMCA. He has served on the greater Akron area boards of Goodwill Industries, Shelter Care, and the Salvation Army. He also has been a professional educator in a wide variety of capacities: a teacher, a principal, a school superintendent, and a professor at both the University of Akron and Kent State University. He was instrumental in bringing together our regional institutions of higher learning to create the Northeastern Ohio Universities' College of Medicine. He capped his educational service with three terms on Ohio's State Board of Education.

This breadth of service to youth is impressive by itself. But alone, it does not capture Oliver Ocasek's contribution to the people of Ohio. Oliver Ocasek was one of the most influential legislators in the Statehouse, where he served in the Senate for 28 years from 1958 to 1986. In the 1970's, he became the first Senate President elected by his peers due to a change in the Ohio Constitution. Along with Republican Governor James Rhodes and Democratic House Speaker Vernal Riffe, Sen. Ocasek made many of the decisions to keep state government moving forward. He was an expert on Ohio's complex school funding system and used his knowledge, experience, and position to benefit local students. His enormous influence came from his savvy and from the hard, tedious work of studying, debating, refining, and reaching decisions on difficult and often contentious state issues.

He is astute, well-steeped in history, a gifted orator and a man of heart-felt compassion. Oliver Ocasek's larger-than-life ambitions drove him hard in politics and in civic life in general, not in search of personal gain and glory, but in order to use his talents and positions to care for the least of his brothers and sisters. Last year in the *Akron Beacon Journal*, Sen. Ocasek expressed his philosophy: "Nothing breaks my heart more than for a child to not have parents who care or to not have a chance for a good education. That's been my commitment—my life—to provide a good education for all children." His leadership has inspired tens of thousands of young people touched by his commitment to education and to the YMCA youth programs over the last half-century.

Today, many people disparage public service and doubt that one person can make a difference. Oliver Ocasek would profoundly disagree. And more importantly, his efforts and their recognition by the YMCA are the evidence to the contrary. His service to the people—and particularly the youth—of Ohio shows that, with hard work and commitment, one person can make a difference. And we are grateful for the difference that he has made.

TOP TEACHERS

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I insert the following letters into the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 15, 1999.

Ms. CAROL SHESTOK,
Norman E. Day Elementary School,
Westford, Massachusetts.

DEAR MS. SHESTOK: Congratulations on being honored as one of the top teachers in Massachusetts. This is a well deserved reward for your special ability to really make a difference in the lives of your students at Norman E. Day Elementary School in Westford.

Too often, talented teachers go unrewarded for the valid work that they do. That is why I am so pleased that you were deservedly honored for all the attention, care and dedication that you have given to your students.

Again, congratulations on your recent honors.

Sincerely,

MARTY MEEHAN,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 16, 1999.

Mrs. GAIL FITZGERALD DOWNING,
Tewksbury, Massachusetts.

DEAR MRS. DOWNING: Congratulations on being honored as one of the nation's top 40 teachers through USA Today's annual ALL-USA Teachers Team Award. It is a well deserved tribute to your special ability to really make a difference in the lives of your students at Russell Street Elementary School in Littleton.

Too often, talented teachers go unrewarded for the work that they do. That is why I am so pleased that you were deservedly honored for all the attention, care and dedication that you have given to your students.

Again, congratulations on your recent honors.

Sincerely,

MARTY MEEHAN,
Member of Congress.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
INTERNET GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my Virginia colleague BOB GOODLATTE, with whom I am privileged to cochair the Congressional Internet Caucus, in the introduction of two bills which taken together will address the major challenges confronting the Internet today.

Heretofore, congressional debates on issues affecting the Internet have been ad hoc and have addressed single issues only. The legislation we are introducing today will provide the first comprehensive framework for debate by the Congress of the major current Internet policy challenges.

The passage of both bills will truly promote the growth and development of the Internet:

First, passage of the legislation will result in greater broadband deployment and an increase in the speed by which people connect to the Internet from their homes and their places of work. Telephone companies will be required to file plans with state public service commissions for the deployment of DSL services in all local exchanges where the deployment is both technologically feasible and economically reasonable. Today, only 50,000 subscribers nationwide have DSL service. Our legislation will result in those numbers increasing dramatically.

We also seek to encourage competition in the provision of DSL services by reducing the regulatory burden on the offering of DSL for telephone companies which agree to make re-conditioned loops for the provision of DSL services available in a timely fashion to competitors.

To ensure an increase in Internet backbone capacity and to stimulate competition in the offering of backbone services, the legislation enables Bell Operating Companies to carry data across LATA boundaries to the extent that the data is not a voice-only service, whether or not the Bell Operating Company has obtained approval to offer inter-LATA services under section 271 of the 1996 Act. This provision will strongly encourage investment in the Internet backbone and the creation of greater competition among Internet backbone providers. That competition is essential to assure the retention of the current peering arrangements which promote low-cost Internet services.

Our legislation gives legal voice to the policies of Internet Service Providers which are designed to protect their facilities from bulk mailings of unsolicited electronic advertisements. Spam can seriously degrade the performance of the Internet and clog the facilities of Internet Access Providers to the disadvantage of all users. In some instances, Internet Service Provider facilities have even crashed due to the onslaught of spam. If service providers have restrictive policies concerning the